

Message Text

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13 AF/CC CLARK AB PHIL

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COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

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TAGS: MPOL, MARR, MILI. SOPM, TH

SUBJECT: LETTER TO NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 5024

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS SENT MARCH 5 TO CHIRACHAI MARUKPITAK, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REPORTED PARA TWO REFTEL: 1) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT ENTERED INTO BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT CONCERNING FOREIGN FORCES IN THAILAND. ACCORDINGLY, OVER THE PAST YEAR THE UNITED STATES HAS STEADILY WITHDRAWN ITS FORCES. THE LAST COMBAT AIRCRAFT WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND IN DECEMBER 1975. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ALL U.S. COMBAT FORCES WILL HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. THIS RECORD DEMONSTRATES THAT THE U.S.

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HAS BEEN SINCERE AND SERIOUS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES.

2) THE DISPOSITION OF THE MILITARY SITES AT RAMASUN AND KO KHA IS A MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE EMBASSY TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. IN THE CASE OF THE DOI INTHANON RADAR STATION, THIS HAS NEVER BEEN A U.S. FACILITY. AT THE REQUEST OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS STATION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION, THE U.S. PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ENGAGED THERE WILL BE WITHDRAWN, AND ONLY THAI PERSONNEL WILL MAN THIS INSTALLATION OF THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE. THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE DOI INTHANON FACILITY IS BEING CONTRIBUTED BY BOTH THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. 3) I THINK THAT TWO POINTS SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR: FIRST, THAT THE ONLY UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL WHICH WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THAILAND WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES FULLY RESPECTS THAI SOVEREIGNTY. SECONDLY, DISCUSSIONS ARE IN PROGRESS BETWEEN THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES. UNTIL THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONCLUDED, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE EMBASSY TO COMMENT ON SUCH DETAILS. 4) THE UNITED STATES HAS NO INTEREST IN ENGAGING IN INFILTRATION AGAINST THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THAILAND. THE UNITED STATES HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BURMA AND MALAYSIA AND MAINTAINS AN EMBASSY IN LAOS. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CAMBODIA LIE LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO SEE A REDUCTION IN INTERNATIONAL TENSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A WHOLE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL COUNTRIES BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THEIR SOVEREIGNTY. 5) THE UNITED STATES, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, DOES NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES HAS ENJOYED CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT, BEGINNING WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN 1833. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO INTEREST IN INTERFERING IN THAI NATIONAL POLITICS IN ANY WAY. OPERATIONS WHICH THE U.S. CONDUCTED IN CAMBODIA UNTIL APRIL 1975 WERE UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE THEN CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO OPPOSE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION AGAINST

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CAMBODIA. U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CHILE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MANY MISSTATEMENTS AND EXAGGERATIONS, AND I SEE NO POINT IN GOING INTO THIS COMPLEX MATTER HERE. THE VIETNAM WAR IS OVER, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NO INTEREST IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. WE PLAN PUBLIC RELEASE OF LETTER CONTAINING ANSWERS MARCH 6 TO INSURE THAT THIS IS VERSION WHICH REACHED PUBLIC RECORD.

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